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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/735,488	12/14/2000	Masatoshi Takaira	018656-196	8369

21839 7590 09/20/2006

BUCHANAN, INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC
POST OFFICE BOX 1404
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1404

EXAMINER

LETT, THOMAS J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 09/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/735,488

Applicant(s)

TAKAIRA ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas J. Lett

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 6 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 December 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/27/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's points out that the Response to a non-final Office Action filed by Applicants on February 1, 2006, made no claim amendments. The subsequent Official Action made new rejections based on a newly cited reference and was made final. It is believed that the finality of that Official Action is improper and should be treated instead as a non-final Official Action. The Examiner agrees, and withdraws the finality of said Office Action. Examiner revisits and applies the previously applied prior art of Nagashima et al (USPN 5,581,613).

2. Applicant argues that Claim 1 is allowable at least because Nagashima does not disclose the claimed subject matter relating to a signal generator that generates a signal based on an operation timing of a printing unit, and a switching means that, in response to the signal, switches the bus between transmissions from the image reader to the external computer and transmission from the external computer to the printing unit.

Rather, the image clock and sync signal are used to encrypt the data, and a switching means does not switch transmissions of the bus in response to the image clock signal or the sync signal.

Examiner explains that Nagashima et al disclose the bi-directional transfer of data using one bus as shown in Fig. 4 and explained in col. 6, lines 33-40. Here, data moves bi-directionally between an external computer and a copier 41. The teaching disclosed by Nagashima et al explains that (1) color image data

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travels from the scanner 42 to the external controller 34 and (2) from the external controller to the copier 35. The encrypting circuit 11 controls data, to and from, the external controller, see col. 3, lines 36-50, therefore it switches the direction of the bus.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claim 6 is allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record, including Miura et al, Tsuzuki et al, and Kashihara, fails to teach or suggest, alone or in combination, a signal generator that generates horizontal synchronization signals issued based on an operation timing for each line in the printing unit, and switching means that, in response to a rise and a fall of the horizontal synchronization signals, switches the bus between transmission from the image reader to the external computer and transmission from the external computer to the printing unit, whereas scan image data for one line taken out of the read buffer and print image data for one line taken out of the print buffer are alternately transferred via the bus.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-5, and 7-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagashima et al (USPN 5,581,613).

With respect to claim 1, Nagashima et al disclose a digital copying machine (color copying apparatus 5, Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 5-8) comprising:

- an image reader (scanner unit 12, col. 3, lines 19-22) that reads an image of the original document and generates image data,
- a printing unit (printing unit 13, Fig. 1) that prints based on image data,
- a bus (see Fig. 1, the bus is not shown as stated in col. 3, lines 3-35) that transmits the image data generated by the image reader (scanner unit 12) to an external computer (external controller 4, col. 3, lines 7-9) and that transmits image data from the external computer to the printing unit (color image data is supplied by the controller 4 to the printing unit 13, col. 3, lines 47-50),
- a signal generator (image clock, col. 3, line 33) that generates a signal based on an operation timing (this is inherently done since an image sync signal would be in synchronization with the printer when the data is intended for printing) of the printing unit (printing unit 13, Fig. 1), and

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switching means (encrypting circuit 11, col. 3, lines 36-50 with CPU (not shown) controls operation of the color copying apparatus 5, col. 4, lines 45-49) that, in response to the signal, switches the bus between transmission from the image reader (see Fig. 1 where data flows to the external controller 4 and back to the color copying apparatus 5 for printing on printer unit 13) to the external computer and transmission from the external computer to the printing unit.

With respect to claim 2, Nagashima et al disclose a digital copying machine as claimed in claim 1, said signal generated by the signal generator (image clock, col. 3, line 33) is a clock signal issued based on an operation timing for each pixel (image sync signal, col. 3, line 33).

With respect to claim 3, Nagashima et al disclose a digital copying machine as claimed in claim 1, said signal generated by the signal generator is a horizontal synchronization signal issued based on an operation timing for each line (see Figs. 2 and 5).

With respect to claim 4, Nagashima et al disclose a digital copying machine as claimed in claim 1, said bus includes a read buffer that temporarily stores the image data read by the image reader (FIFO buffer 141 is shown in Fig. 6).

With respect to claim 5, Nagashima et al disclose a digital copying machine as claimed in claim 1, said bus includes a print buffer that temporarily stores the image data sent by the external computer (FIFO buffer 133 is shown in Fig. 6).

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Claim 7, a method claim, is rejected for the same reason as that of claim

1.

Claim 8, a method claim, is rejected for the same reason as that of claim

2.

Claim 9, a method claim, is rejected for the same reason as that of claim

3.

Claim 10, a method claim, is rejected for the same reason as that of claim

4.

Claim 11, a method claim, is rejected for the same reason as that of claim

5.

Claim 12, a method claim, is rejected for the same reason as that of claim

1.

Claim 13, a method claim, is rejected for the same reason as that of claim

2.

Claim 14, a method claim, is rejected for the same reason as that of claim

3.

Claim 15, a method claim, is rejected for the same reason as that of claim

4.

Claim 16, a method claim, is rejected for the same reason as that of claim

5.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas J. Lett whose telephone number is (571) 272-7464. The examiner can normally be reached on 7-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TJL



KING Y. POON
PRIMARY EXAMINER